

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 10000 171428Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03  
INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /057 W  
-----171450Z 114188 /50

O 171340Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5355

UNCLAS ROME 10000

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR IT

SUBJ: AIRLIFT INTERNATIONAL CHARTER APPLICATION

REF: (A) STATE 140386 (B) STATE 139111

1. EMBOFF CONTACTED ITALIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES (DGCA) MORNING OF JUNE 16 REQUESTING INFORMATION REGARDING STATUS OF AIRLIFT INTERNATIONAL (AI) APPLICATION FOR LANDING RIGHTS. DGCA EXPLAINED THAT APPLICATION WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND ANSWER WOULD BE FORTHCOMING NEXT DAY. MORNING JUNE 17 DGCA INFORMED THAT REFUSAL HAD BEEN ISSUED EVENING OF JUNE 16 INSTEAD OF JUNE 15, AS PER REFTEL (A) DUE AVAILABILITY OF CARGO SPACE ON REGULARLY SCHEDULED CARRIERS, INCLUDING ALITALIA, PAA, TWA. DGCA EXPLAINED THAT AI COULD RE-FILE APPLICATION BUT WAS NEITHER ENCOURAGING NOR DISCOURAGING RE THE POSSIBILITY OF APPROVAL.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED AVAILABILITY OF CARGO SPACE WITH PAA AND TWA REPS JUNE 17. PAA DOES NOT RPT NOT PRESENTLY OPERATE ALL-CARGO SERVICE. TWA REP NOTED THAT TWA OPERATES ALL-CARGO SERVICE PLUS MIXED PASSENGER-CARGO SERVICE. TWA REP OPINED THAT EXCESS CAPACITY CONSTITUTED VALID REASON FOR DGCA'S DENIAL OF LANDING RIGHTS. BOTH PAA AND TWA REPS ADDED THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT ALITALIA IS PRESSURING DGCA ON THIS ISSUE.

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3. COMMENT: OF COURSE, EMBASSY UNABLE TO DOCUMENT THAT ALITALIA IS IN FACT ATTEMPTING TO PREJUDICE DGCA DECISIONS RE FOREIGN CHARTERS, CERTAINLY NOT SUFFICIENTLY TO PERMIT US TO MAKE STRONG CASE WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA). WE HAVE ALERTED MFA TO AI PROBLEM, MAKING POINTS REF (A), PARA 2. HOWEVER, AI MUST REFILE IF IT WISHES TO HAVE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO OPERATE

FLIGHT AS SCHEDULED. ONCE THIS DONE, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE FURTHER SUPPORT HERE WITH DGCA POSSIBLE THROUGH MFA. AI'S LOCAL AGENT (OR AI REP) SHOULD CONTACT EMBASSY DIRECTLY TO ASCERTAIN PROGRESS (IF ANY) ON ITS APPLICATION. UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS UNLIKELY WE CAN TURN DGCA AROUND ON THIS ISSUE IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME AND INTERVENING WEEKEND.

4. IN THIS CASE, WE BELIEVE THE SCHEDULED CARRIERS DO HAVE CAPACITY TO DO JOB. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON VALIDITY OF OSTENSIBLE REASON, I.E.EXCESS CAPACITY FOR DGCA DENIAL. ANY EVENTUAL FORMAL APPROACH TO MFA (OR UPPER LEVELS DGCA, MOST OF WHICH ENGAGED IN CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS IN ISRAEL AND THUS UNAVAILABLE) HAS GREATER CHANCE OF BEING SUCCESSFUL IF WE CAN SUGGEST THAT USG WOULD CONSIDER IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS AGAINST ALITALIA. END COMMENT.GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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